

Holy Book Report, Batman! (an excellent example of a book report)

Pat Kelly, period 12

July 15, 2001

The Little Prince

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Comment [EC1]: Pat followed directions!

Characters: The first character we meet in the story is the pilot. He is an adult, but remembers what it was like to be a child. There is very little physical description of him in the book.

Comment [EC2]: Yes, there is more than one sentence per character. You may always do more!

Another important character is the little prince. He has spiky blond hair and wears a long, yellow scarf. He is very independent and curious about the Earth (since he is new here).

Comment [EC3]: Always double-space your work if you can. With a computer, it's a few clicks...and it makes your teacher's life MUCH easier, because marking is WAY simpler!

The rose is also important, although she never actually is present in the story. She is a red rose that lives on the prince's planet, with soft petals and four sharp thorns for self-defense. She is caring, loving and sympathetic.

Setting: This book is set in the early part of the twentieth century, in the Sahara desert. Parts of the story (memories) take place elsewhere, but the main setting is the desert.

Comment [EC4]: Time? Check! Place? Check! Full mark for Pat.

Theme: Throughout the book, the author discusses how children and grown-ups are different, so one theme is that people go through many changes as they mature.

Comment [EC5]: I happen to have read this book, so I know there are a LOT of themes...but this is one of the more important ones.

Paragraphs:

Topic B (tell how a character contributes to the outcome of the novel)

Comment [EC6]: You don't need to put down a short form of the question..."Topic B" is enough. However, I did that so you could see how well Pat answered the main points of the question.

One minor character who contributes to the end of the story is the fox. When the little prince meets it, he does not understand that it is important to feel connected to a community. The fox explains, "To me, you are a little boy like a hundred thousand other little boys. And I have no need of you. ...But if you tame me, we shall need one another" (p. 77). The prince learns that when people are familiar with one another, and care about one another, their life is more exciting, and less lonely. The

Comment [EC7]: Notice that Pat includes quotations from the novel, and tells where they were found (page number)

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fox teaches him that, "For what you have tamed, you become responsible forever" (p. 82). Eventually, the prince figures out that he has become connected to, or tamed, the pilot, and he feels responsible for the man. When the prince goes back to his planet at the end of the book, leaving an empty body behind, the pilot is sad, of course. But the pilot remembers what the prince told him, "You know...my flower...I am responsible for her. And she is so weak, so trusting" (p. 104) and learns, from a child, what it means to be responsible. The little prince goes back to his own world to take care of the flower that he loves, even though it means leaving behind his pilot friend. He has learned his lesson from the fox very well, and it made him choose to go back.

Comment [EC8]: Do you think this paragraph would get a better mark on the rubric? If not...we have to talk!

Topic C (what subjects new to you did the book make you think about)

There were some very interesting ideas explored in this book. One was the idea of the connections between people being the same as taming wild animals (p. 77). While I had never thought of it that way before, new friendships are kind of like new pets: we teach each other what we think is important, or funny, and what we like and dislike. We start looking forward to when we will see our friend, just as animals start to know you will feed them at, say, four o'clock if you do that consistently. Another interesting idea was how adults are so obsessed with practical things, like numbers, while children are more accepting and imaginative. Saint-Exupéry says,

Grown-ups love figures. When you talk to them about a new friend, they never ask questions about essential matters. They never say to you: 'What does his voice sound like? What games does he prefer? Does he collect butterflies?' They ask you, 'How old is he? How many brothers does he have? How much does he weigh? How much money does his father earn?' It is only then that they feel that they know him (p. 21-22).

Comment [EC9]: Always refer to an author by their LAST NAME ONLY (unless you are comparing or discussing two authors with the same last name).

Comment [EC10]: This is how to set off a quotation that is longer than three lines. No, you don't need quotation marks.

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I had never thought about that difference before, and now I wonder if I will start to be more numbers-oriented as I get older. Maybe, like the pilot, I will be able to keep some of the creativity of childhood. There are many thought-provoking ideas in this novel, even though it is very short.